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10/542,221

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EXAMINER

RODRIGUEZ, YANET

ART UNIT

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2452

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/542,221 | Applicant(s) SUGIMOTO ET AL. | |
| | Examiner YANET RODRIGUEZ | Art Unit 2452 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>05/28/2009</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,064,380 to Swenson et al. [hereinafter Swenson] and U.S. Patent Number 6,868,225 B1 to Brown et al. [hereinafter Brown].**

1. Regarding claims 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8, Swenson discloses a communications system, comprising:

an information processing apparatus [column 2, lines 62-all and column 3, line 1];

and

an information management apparatus [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server manages the content provided to the user]

operable to manage playing positions of contents [column 4, lines 62-all and column 5, lines 1-7; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position; [column 2, lines 28-32], where the system manages where the user would like to play the video or multimedia file the next time the access the file];

said information processing apparatus [column 2, lines 62-all and column 3, line

1] including:

playing means for playing content provided via a network [column 2, lines 28-32];

first request means for requesting [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the user requested for the storing of the position or the time stamp of the video or multimedia file] that said information management apparatus [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server manages the content provided to the user] store a time stamp [column 5, lines 44-51, where the position may be determined in terms of time position] in association with predetermined identification information [column 1, lines 19-21, where the user needs to login before he or she can obtain access to the services provided by the server], while said content is played by said playing means, in response to an instruction that said time stamp representing a playing position of said content at that moment be stored [column 4, lines 62-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where while the content is being played the user requests for the content to be paused to continue at a later time and column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position]; and

second request means for transmitting said identification information [column 1, lines 19-21, where the user needs to login before he or she can obtain access to the services provided by the server and the computer transmits the identification information] to said information management apparatus [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server manages the content provided to the user] and for requesting the playing of said content from said

Art Unit: 2452

playing position represented by said time stamp [column 2, lines 28-32, where the user requests to play the video or multimedia file from the saved playing position; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position], wherein

said identification information includes information allotted to each user [column 1, lines 19-21, where the user needs to login before he or she can obtain access to the services provided by the server; and the server will have the identification information of the user in order for them to login], and

said playing means is operable to play said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp in accordance with the request by said second request means [column 2, lines 28-32, where the user requests to play the video or multimedia file from the saved playing position; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position]; and

said information management apparatus [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server manages the content provided to the user] including:

management means for managing the provision of said content to said information processing apparatus via said network [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server supervises and provides the content to the user; column 1, lines 9-19, where the server manages the content over the network]; and

storing means for storing said time stamp [column 5, lines 44-46, column 5, lines 46-51, where the position may be determined in terms of time position] in association with said identification information [column 1, lines 19-21, where the user needs to login before he or she can obtain access to the services provided by the server], wherein

said management means is operable to manage the provision of said content [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server supervises and provides the content to the user] from said playing position represented by said time stamp [column 4, lines 62-all and column 5, lines 1-7; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position] when said information processing apparatus [column 2, lines 62-all and column 3, line 1, where the request comes from an information processing apparatus] transmits said identification information [column 1, lines 19-21, where the user needs to login before he or she can obtain access to the services provided by the server and the computer transmits the identification information] and requests the playing of said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp [column 2, lines 28-32, where the user requests to play the video or multimedia file from the saved playing position; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position].

However, Swenson fails to disclose the association of a time stamp with access right information, and that identification information is allotted to each user group.

However, in a similar field of endeavor Brown discloses recording and storing bookmarks for stored program material in a computer environment. Specifically Brown discloses the association of a time stamp with access right information [column 15, lines 29-42 and lines 55-63; column 16, lines 20-24] and that identification information is allotted to each user group [column 15, lines 64-all-column 16, lines 1-19].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Swenson to have the association of a time stamp with access right information and that identification information is allotted to each user group for the purpose of setting bookmarks for different users and having parental controls.

2. Regarding claim 4, Swenson and Brown disclose everything claimed as above (see claim 3), in addition Swenson discloses wherein:

said first request means is operable to request that the information management apparatus stop the provision of said content and store said time stamp upon issuance of an instruction to stop the playing of said content [column 4, 65- all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the user requests to stop the content being played; column 5, lines 44-54, where a time stamp gets stored].

3. Claim 5 (cancelled)

4. Regarding claim 6, Swenson and Brown disclose everything claimed as above (see claim 3), in addition Swenson discloses, further comprising:

third request means for requesting that a viewing status information management apparatus [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the user requested for

Art Unit: 2452

the storing of the position or the time stamp of the video or multimedia file; column 2, lines 62-all and column 3, line 1, where the request comes from an information processing apparatus] that manages viewing status information store viewing status information representing a viewing status of said content [column 5, lines 44-51, where the time of the position is stored representing the viewing status information of the content],

wherein said second request means is operable to request the playing of said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp in accordance with said viewing status of said content represented by said viewing status information [column 2, lines 28-32, where the user requests to play the video or multimedia file from the saved playing position; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position and the time is part of the viewing status information].

5. Regarding claim 9, Swenson discloses a system for processing information, comprising:

a processor operable to execute instructions [column 2, lines 62-all and column 3, line 1; and column 6, line 1-11, where the processor executes the instructions of the invention]; and

instructions [column 6, line 1-11, where the program code has the instructions] for carrying out an information processing method [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server supervises and provides the content to the user], the information processing method including:

playing content provided via a network [column 2, lines 28-32];

requesting [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the user requested for the storing of the position or the time stamp of the video or multimedia file] that an information management apparatus [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server manages the content provided to the user] which manages playing positions of contents [column 4, lines 62-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server supervises and provides the content to the user; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position] store a time stamp [column 5, lines 44-46; column 5, lines 46-51, where the position may be determined in terms of time position] in association with predetermined identification information [column 1, lines 19-21, where the user needs to login before he or she can obtain access to the services provided by the server] during said playing step in response to an instruction to store said time stamp representing a playing position of said content at that moment [column 4, lines 62-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where while the content is being played the user requests for the content to be paused to continue at a later time; [column 5, lines 46-51], where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position]; and

transmitting said identification information [column 1, lines 19-21, where the user needs to login before he or she can obtain access to the services provided by the server and the computer transmits the identification information] to the information management apparatus [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server manages the content provided to the user] and requesting the playing of said

Art Unit: 2452

content from said playing position represented by said time stamp [column 2, lines 28-32, where the user requests to play the video or multimedia file from the saved playing position; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position], said identification information including information allotted to each user [column 1, lines 19-21, where the user needs to login before he or she can obtain access to the services provided by the server; and the server will have the identification information of the user in order for them to login], and the playing step plays said content from said playing position represented by said time stamp in accordance with said step of requesting the playing [column 2, lines 28-32, where the user requests to play the video or multimedia file from the saved playing position; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position]. However, Swenson fails to disclose the association of a time stamp with access right information and that identification information is allotted to each user group.

However, in a similar field of endeavor Brown discloses recording and storing bookmarks for stored program material in a computer environment. Specifically Brown discloses the association of a time stamp with access right information [column 15, lines 29-42 and lines 55-63; column 16, lines 20-24] and that identification information is allotted to each user group [column 15, lines 64-all-column 16, lines 1-19].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Swenson to have the association of a time stamp with access right information and that identification information is allotted to each

Art Unit: 2452

user group for the purpose of setting bookmarks for different users and having parental controls.

6. Regarding claim 10, Swenson discloses an information management apparatus [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server supervises and provides the content to the user], comprising:

management means for managing the provision of predetermined content to an information processing apparatus via a network [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server supervises and provides the content to the user and the user sends the position information to the server; column 1, lines 9-19, where the server manages the content over the network]; and

storing means for storing a time stamp [column 5, lines 44-54, where the position may be determined in terms of time position] in association with predetermined identification information [column 1, lines 19-21, where the user needs to login before he or she can obtain access to the services provided by the server] in accordance with a request from the information processing apparatus [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the user requested for the storing of the position time stamp of the video or multimedia file; column 2, lines 62-all and column 3, line 1, where the request comes from an information processing apparatus], said time stamp representing a playing position of said content provided via said network [column 4, lines 62-all and column 5, lines 1-7; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position; column 1, lines 9-19, where the provision of the content and the playing position is via a network], wherein

said management means is operable to manage the provision of said content [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server supervises and provides the content to the user and the user sends the position information to the server] from the playing position represented by said time stamp [column 4, lines 62-all and column 5, lines 1-7; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position] when the information processing apparatus [column 2, lines 62-all and column 3, line 1, where the request comes from an information processing apparatus] transmits said identification information [column 1, lines 19-21, where the user needs to login before he or she can obtain access to the services provided by the server and the computer transmits the identification information] and requests that said content be played from the playing position represented by said time stamp [column 2, lines 28-32, where the user requests to play the video or multimedia file from the saved playing position; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position]. However, Swenson fails to disclose the association of a time stamp with access right information.

However, in a similar field of endeavor Brown discloses recording and storing bookmarks for stored program material in a computer environment. Specifically Brown discloses the association of a time stamp with access right information [column 15, lines 29-42 and lines 55-63; column 16, lines 1-24].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Swenson to have the association of a time

Art Unit: 2452

stamp with access right information for the purpose of setting bookmarks for different users and having parental controls.

7. Regarding claim 11, Swenson and Brown disclose everything claimed as above (see claim 10), in addition Swenson discloses further comprising:

viewing status information storing means for storing viewing status information representing a viewing status of said content [column 5, lines 44-51, where the time of the position is stored representing the viewing status information of the content] in accordance with a request from the information processing apparatus [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the user requested for the storing of the position or the time stamp of the video or multimedia file; column 2, lines 62-all and column 3, line 1, where the request comes from an information processing apparatus],

wherein said management means is operable to manage the provision of said content [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server supervises and provides the content to the user and the user sends the position information to the server] from the playing position represented by said time stamp [column 4, lines 62-all and column 5, lines 1-7; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position] when the viewing status of said content represented by the viewing status information indicates that said content has not been played to the end [column 1, lines 65-all and column 2, lines 1-11 and lines 24-31, where the position is saved before the content gets to the end; column 5, lines 44-51, where the time of the position is stored representing the viewing status information of the content].

Art Unit: 2452

8. Regarding claims 12 and 13, Swenson discloses an information management method [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server supervises and provides the content to the user and the user sends the position information to the server], comprising:

providing predetermined content to an information processing apparatus via a network [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the system supervises and provides the content that the user receives; column 1, lines 9-19, where the server sends the content over the network]; and

storing a time stamp [column 5, lines 44-46; column 5, lines 46-51 where the position may be determined in terms of time position] in association with predetermined identification information [column 1, lines 19-21, where the user needs to login before he or she can obtain access to the services provided by the server and therefore identify himself] in accordance with a request from the information processing apparatus [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the user requested for the storing of the position or the time stamp of the video or multimedia file; column 2, lines 62-all and column 3, line 1, where the request comes from an information processing apparatus], said time stamp representing a playing position of said content provided by said providing step [column 4, lines 62-all and column 5, lines 1-7; column 5, lines 46-51 where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position], wherein

said providing step provides said content [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server supervises and provides the content to the user and the user sends the position information to the server] from the playing position represented by

Art Unit: 2452

said time stamp [column 4, lines 62-all and column 5, lines 1-7; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be represented by time position] when the information processing apparatus [column 2, lines 62-all and column 3, line 1] transmits said identification information [column 1, lines 19-21, where the user needs to login before he or she can obtain access to the services provided by the server and the computer transmits the identification information] and requests that said content be played from the playing position represented by said time stamp [column 2, lines 28-32, where the user requests to play the video or multimedia file from the saved playing position; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position].

However, Swenson fails to disclose the association of a time stamp with access right information.

However, in a similar field of endeavor Brown discloses recording and storing bookmarks for stored program material in a computer environment. Specifically Brown discloses the association of a time stamp with access right information [column 15, lines 29-42 and lines 55-63; column 16, lines 1-24].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Swenson to have the association of a time stamp with access right information for the purpose of setting bookmarks for different users and having parental controls.

9. Regarding claim 14, Swenson discloses a system for managing information, comprising:

Art Unit: 2452

a processor operable to execute instructions [column 2, lines 62-all and column 3, line 1; column 6, line 1-11, where the processor executes the instructions of the invention]; and

instructions [column 6, line 1-11, where the program code has the instructions] for carrying out an information management method [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the method of management of information is being performed], the information management method including:

providing predetermined content to an information processing apparatus via a network [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server supervises and provides the content to the user and the user sends the position information to the server; column 1, lines 9-19, where the server is provides the content over the network]; and

storing a time stamp [column 5, lines 44-51, where the position may be determined in terms of time position] in association with predetermined identification information [column 1, lines 19-21, where the user needs to login before he or she can obtain access to the services provided by the server] in accordance with a request from the information processing apparatus [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the user requested for the storing of the position or the time stamp of the video or multimedia file, column 2, lines 62-all and column 3, line 1, where the request comes from an information processing apparatus], said time stamp representing a playing position of said content provided by said providing step [column 4, lines 62-all and

Art Unit: 2452

column 5, lines 1-7; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position], wherein

said providing step provides said content [column 4, lines 65-all and column 5, lines 1-7, where the server supervises and provides the content to the user to play] from the playing position represented by said time stamp [column 4, lines 62-all and column 5, lines 1-7; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position] when the information processing apparatus [column 2, lines 62-all and column 3, line 1] transmits said identification information [column 1, lines 19-21, where the user needs to login before he or she can obtain access to the services provided by the server and the computer transmits the identification information] and requests that said content be played from the playing position represented by said time stamp [column 2, lines 28-32, where the user requests to play the video or multimedia file from the saved playing position; column 5, lines 46-51, where the playing position may be determined in terms of time position].

However, Swenson fails to disclose the association of a time stamp with access right information.

However, in a similar field of endeavor Brown discloses recording and storing bookmarks for stored program material in a computer environment. Specifically Brown discloses the association of a time stamp with access right information [column 15, lines 29-42 and lines 55-63; column 16, lines 1-24].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Swenson to have the association of a time

Art Unit: 2452

stamp with access right information for the purpose of setting bookmarks for different users and having parental controls.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
2. The 112 rejection is hereto withdrawn.

Conclusion

1. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YANET RODRIGUEZ whose telephone number is

Art Unit: 2452

(571)270-7257. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00AM - 5:00 PM Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thu V. Nguyen can be reached on (571)272-6967. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/YANET RODRIGUEZ/
Examiner, Art Unit 2452

/THU NGUYEN/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2452